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SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 14 November 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of Georgia and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Declaration signed at Tbilisi on 29 October 1997 by the President of Ukraine, Mr. Leonid Kuchma, and the President of Georgia, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze during the official visit of President Kuchma to Georgia.

We should be very grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 38 and 81.

(Signed) Dr. Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary, Permanent
Representative of Georgia
to the United Nations

(Signed) Volodymyr YEL'CHENKO
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary, Permanent
Representative of Ukraine
to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Declaration of the President of Ukraine and the President of Georgia, signed in Tbilisi on 29 October 1997

Ukraine and Georgia, hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

Emphasizing the importance of bilateral cooperation and mutual support in the strengthening of the national independence of Ukraine and Georgia,

Seeking to achieve the further enhancement of partnership in all aspects of their mutual relations,

Acting on the basis of the fundamental principles of the Treaty on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance between Ukraine and the Republic of Georgia of 13 April 1993, the Declaration on the prospects for the development of cooperation and common approaches to questions of international relations, signed on 10 January 1995, and the Declaration on the intensification of the partnership relationship between Ukraine and Georgia, signed in Kiev on 14 February 1997, which demonstrated their strong determination and set forth the preconditions for the expansion and intensification of such cooperation,

Expressing their determination to continue, on a daily basis, to work towards increasing the historical closeness between the two peoples and their traditional relations of friendship,

Noting the significance of the strengthening of Ukrainian-Georgian cooperation in ensuring stability and the formation of a new system of security in the region,

Recognizing the need for fuller utilization of the material and intellectual potential of the two countries, the development of specific approaches and the creation of mechanisms to facilitate the attainment of practical goals in accordance with the new political, economic and social realities,

Make the following declaration:

1. The Parties are convinced that cooperation based on the principles of equality, independence, good-neighbourliness, mutual assistance, mutual benefit and respect for each other's sovereignty will open up unlimited possibilities for the solution of the problems facing the Parties in their efforts to achieve a qualitatively new level of partnership;

2. The Parties believe that it is essential to continue to make joint coordinated efforts with a view to establishing, in the area within the purview of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), bilateral and multilateral international relations based on the generally accepted principles and norms of international law;

3. The Parties will continue to offer each other support in the pursuit of their fundamental foreign policy priorities, namely integration into the European political and economic structures;

4. The Parties attach great significance to strengthening the atmosphere of confidence and security in Europe and preventing the emergence of new dividing lines on the continent; the Parties regard as extremely promising the cooperation in the context of the further evolution of the programme of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on "Partnership for Peace", which has already made an important contribution to the strengthening of regional security and stability;

5. Georgia welcomes the signing of the Charter on a special partnership between Ukraine and NATO, believing it to be an important element in the building of a new system of stability and security in the region;

6. Georgia welcomes the intention of Ukraine to join the group of States "Friends of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on Georgia";

7. Ukraine believes that the restoration of the territorial integrity of Georgia is an essential condition for the strengthening of peace, security and stability in the Caucasus and wholeheartedly supports Georgia in its efforts to find a solution to this vitally important national problem. Ukraine is prepared to take a direct part in the processes of a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, by sending a military contingent, under the auspices of the United Nations, to participate in peacekeeping operations in the conflict zone, and to expand its participation in the peacekeeping activities of the United Nations and OSCE missions by sending its representatives to work on their staff;

8. Noting with satisfaction the positive experience of bilateral cooperation in the military and technological field and believing that it is an integral component in the formation of statehood and the strengthening of independence, the Parties emphasize the need to give a further impetus to efforts to bring about the implementation of the agreements which have been reached;

9. The Parties reaffirm their support for the process directed towards working out measures to build confidence and security in the naval sphere in the Black Sea. Ukraine, which fully supports the aspirations of Georgia as a Black Sea State to create its own naval forces, is prepared to continue to cooperate in every way in the process of the creation of Georgia's naval forces and the formation of its sea frontier infrastructure;

10. The Parties support the transformation of Black Sea economic cooperation into a regional economic organization, and intend to intensify their efforts to develop and intensify trade and economic cooperation in all areas within the framework of Black Sea economic cooperation, both bilaterally and multilaterally;

11. The Parties will continue to promote the development of cooperation between States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the basis of the

principles and norms of international law, and in accordance with their own legislative and national interests;

12. The Parties fully support the idea of cooperation between the countries of the Baltic and Black Sea regions and are prepared to promote its realization in every way with a view to the further development and strengthening of political and economic ties;

13. Noting with satisfaction the quickening and developing pace of bilateral trade and economic cooperation, the Parties consider it essential to step up efforts to intensify these processes, ensure the further increase of bilateral trade turnover and investments, encourage the establishment of joint ventures, concerns and holdings, the reciprocal use of warehousing and transport infrastructures and the diversification of forms of trade, including consignments, and support the promotion of domestically produced goods on their own markets and the markets of third countries;

14. The Parties consider it essential to increase the volume of cooperation in areas such as transport, communications, the power industry, engineering, agriculture, scientific and technical cooperation, culture and education in accordance with bilateral and multilateral agreements;

15. The Parties attach particular importance to the intensification of efforts to accelerate practical measures aimed at speeding up the full-scale operation of the Eurasian transport corridor, a globally significant project which they regard as an extremely important factor in the all-round development of the two States. The realization of the TRASECA project by means of the Eurasian transport corridor will make it possible to reduce significantly the distances and journey times for the transport of freight from Europe to Central Asia via the Caucasus and in the opposite direction. This project will facilitate the integration processes between the two largest communities in the world today - the European Union and the Asia-Pacific region. The Parties will hold regular bilateral and multilateral consultations on the multifaceted problems associated with the implementation of these projects;

16. The Parties intend to devote particular attention to the practical realization of a project to open a railway-ferry crossing at Ilyichevsk-Poti, which they regard as an extremely important component in the plan for the implementation of the long-term programme to establish a Eurasian transport corridor. The Parties therefore welcome the allocation by the European Commission of 15 million ecus to bring the railway-ferry crossing at Ilyichevsk-Poti into operation and the signing of the relevant documents in Brussels; they invite all interested parties to participate actively in the implementation of this project;

17. Noting the extreme usefulness of intergovernmental and interdepartmental bilateral consultations, the Parties consider it essential to continue the existing practice and further refine the machinery of such consultations;

18. Noting with satisfaction the work of the Intergovernmental Mixed Ukrainian-Georgian Commission on trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation, the Parties will take measures to invigorate its role in the coordination of the

efforts undertaken by the Governments of the two States aimed at developing and improving the entire system of cooperation, trade and investments, and at promoting the implementation of specific economic projects.

The Parties note that there is an urgent need to make use of the qualitatively new approaches and working methods of the Commission, in particular to establish at the departmental deputy director level special subcommissions on cooperation in the areas of transport, customs and border issues;

19. The Parties attach great importance to combating organized crime and terrorism, which threaten national interests;

20. Expressing their satisfaction with the existing treaty and legal basis, the Parties consider it essential to develop it further and to study the reasons why the provisions of some agreements are insufficiently effective. Agreement was reached on the implementation of measures to accelerate the fulfilment of the internal State procedures required for the entry into force of international agreements which have been signed;

21. The Parties will promote the development of interparliamentary ties and exchange experience in the areas of legislative activity and the establishment and operation of democratic institutions;

22. The Parties will regularly exchange experience and information about the progress of reforms that are being carried out in various fields in the two States.

President of Ukraine:

(Signed) L. KUCHMA

President of Georgia:

(Signed) E. SHEVARDNADZE